



Healthy Arkansas

For a Better State of Health

Create A Tobacco Free Workplace

Economic Impact of Tobacco Use in the Workplace

- Estimates of the annual excess illness costs per smoking employee are \$960
- Smokers are absent from work 50 percent more often than nonsmokers, have twice as many on-the-job accidents and are 50 percent more likely to be hospitalized than workers who do not smoke
- Recognizing that employees of smoke free companies overall may be healthier year-round, many insurers are inclined to give those companies a break on premiums. Some fire and casualty companies, for example, will cut their premiums by 50 percent
- Smoking-attributable direct healthcare costs in Arkansas equals \$633 million
- Smoking-caused productivity losses in Arkansas equal \$1.12 billion

Benefits of a Tobacco Free Workplace

For the Employer

- A tobacco free environment helps create a safe, healthful workplace
- Direct healthcare costs to the company may be reduced
- It may be possible to negotiate lower health, life and disability coverage as employee tobacco use is reduced
- The risk of fires is lower
- Managers are relieved when a process for dealing with tobacco use in the workplace is clearly defined
- Absenteeism is lower due to smoking related illnesses
- Maintenance costs go down when smoke, matches and cigarette butts are eliminated in facilities
- Office equipment, carpets and furniture last longer

For the Employee

- A tobacco free environment helps create a safe, healthful workplace
- A well planned and carefully implemented effort by the employer to address the effects of tobacco use on employees' health and the health of their families shows the company cares
- Workers who are bothered by secondhand smoke will not be exposed to it at the worksite
- Smokers appreciate a clear company policy about smoking at work

For additional information call 1-800-235-0002 or visit www.HealthyArkansas.com